

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated March 17, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 13-15, 17, 18 and 21-23. Accordingly, claims 1-23 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because of the term “predetermined”. Applicant respectfully submit that in view of the current amendments, this rejection is now believed to be moot.

In addition, the Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 2000-040828 to Hirabayashi et al. (hereinafter “Hirabayashi”); rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 10-200120 to Shibuya et al. (hereinafter “Shibuya”); and rejected claims 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirabayashi and Shibuya in view of Japanese Publication No. 2002-006338 to Takagi (hereinafter “Takagi”).

The rejections of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by either Hirabayashi or Shibuya are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 14 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 14 as amended recites a combination of elements including, for example, “...crystallizing the deposited amorphous silicon layer to form a polycrystalline silicon layer using a sequential lateral solidification (SLS) method; reducing the thickness of the crystallized polycrystalline silicon layer to a second thickness thinner than the first thickness, wherein the second thickness is at least determined by an on/off current ratio of the polycrystalline thin film transistor...” None of the cited references teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 is allowable over the cited references.


The rejection of claims 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirabayashi and Shibuya in view of Takagi is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Because Takagi fails to cure the deficient teachings of Hirabayashi and Shibuya as discussed with respect to claim 14, claims 15-22 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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